

**STATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON
PROBLEM GAMBLING &
ADDICITON SERVICES**

November 10, 2004, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Country Inn & Suites
Lighthouse Conference Room
5353 North 27th St., Lincoln, NE

Commission Members Present: John Atherton, Wayne Choat, Janet French , Sherrie Geier, Steven Jung, Lynda Lakin, Tom Nutt, Brenda Wagner

Commission Members Absent: Theo Hudson , Lisa Jones

HHS Staff Present: Tim Christensen, Linda Jensen, Gordon Tush

I. CALL TO ORDER

Tim Christensen called the first State Advisory Committee on Problem Gambling and Addiction Services meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. and welcomed all members and guests.

Linda Jensen called the roll of members and determined that a quorum was present.

II. INTRODUCTIONS

All members introduced themselves, stated their job positions and their specific interest in the problem gambling field.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Tim guided the members through today's agenda. Once the chairperson is appointed he/she will take on the duties of the chairperson. Tim asked if there were additions or corrections to the agenda. By general consent the agenda was approved.

- Tim gave some background on how this meeting was set up and an overview of today's agenda items.
 - The Behavioral Health Reform has restructured the Gambling Assistance Program. The Behavioral health Council was created and is partially comprised of three committees. This committee is the State Advisory on Problem Gambling and Addiction Services Committee and will meet quarterly and on the same day as the Behavioral Health Council.
 - As a result of the Behavioral Health Reform legislation an overall Behavioral Health Council was created to include ten members of the State Advisory Committee on Mental Health Services, ten members of the State Advisory Committee on Substance Abuse and ten members of the State Advisory on Problem Gambling and Addiction Services. The Committees will report to the Council with proposed recommendations and continue to provide information to the Office of Mental Health, Substance Abuse and Addiction Services.
 - Tim explained how the Behavioral Health Council and the Committees relate to each other. In the past there was a Substance Abuse Advisory Council, a Mental Health Planning and Evaluation Council and the Compulsive Gambling Advisory Commission. All three served to provide advise to the Office of Mental Health, Substance Abuse and Addiction Services.
 - Tim has developed some bylaws that are common across all of the three of the committees of the Behavioral Health Council
 - Officers will be elected today as part of the bylaws.
 - The Behavioral Health Council will be influential in representing the overall system activities.
 - The Behavioral Health Council will report annually to the Governor and legislature.
 - The advisory committee groups were retained specific to the services because of the differences in their services.
 - There is a significant difference in this committee compared to the other two committees in that this committee makes recommendations on funding of programs where the other two do not.

- This committee will meet in the morning and the Behavioral Health Council will meet in the afternoon on scheduled meeting dates.
- Tim is very pleased that this committee has an equal voice in representation of the Behavioral Health Council.
- Tim would like this group to develop a formal Gambler's Assistance Program annual report.
- The Compulsive Gambling Advisory Commission developed an annual report two years ago and it proved to be very beneficial.

Question - Lynda Lakin

Do we have latitude to expand what we do or do we need to change the bylaws? Could this expand for students who would like to do research on casino gambling behavior?

Answer - Tim Christensen

Yes, the bylaws, under Article 7 states that with the written approval of the Division the chairperson may appoint or otherwise establish adhoc taskforces comprised of committee or non-committee members to accomplish a specific task.

- Notebooks for the State Advisory Commission on Problem Gambling were handed out at Behavioral Health Council meeting (attached).
- The Midwest Consortium on Problem Gambling in Kansas City, Missouri, held August 12 and 13, 2004, was very successful.
 - There were 172 registered participants besides the presenters with a total of approximately 200.
 - The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration awarded the conference a grant of \$50,000
 - This was the first time a grant for problem gambling was awarded.
 - Up to this point there has never been any collaboration with states in terms of problem gambling.
 - There were more contributions to the conference than planned, leaving about \$10,000 left from the federal funds that will be used for next year's conference if allowed by SAMHSA.
 - Next year Tim would like to award scholarships for Nebraska providers to attend the conference.
 - Tim was very pleased with the keynote speakers at the conference
 - Gordon Tush mentioned the significance of evaluating treatment of problem gambling for outcome measures
 - Kate Speck, a member of this committee, is the Nebraska liaison for Addictions Technology Transfer Center. The ATTC (Addictions Technology Transfer Center) is an organization that is funded by the federal government and is responsible for disseminating addiction-related information.
 - Tim will send members a copy of his final report on the Midwest Conference.
- The National Problem Awareness Week (NPGAW) is held every March - the Nebraska Council on Compulsive Gambling is active in promoting the week.
 - The NPGAW has a web site that is available for viewing and extracting valuable information on problem gambling (www.npgaw.org).
 - Tim said it has been an ongoing struggle to train counselors and provide services in Western Nebraska. Increasing attendance at problem gambling trainings by professionals in this area has not been successful to date.
- The Request for Proposal Process refers to the process when potential providers respond to a request by the state that outlines an amount of money and services expected to be rendered.
 - The RFP process is not necessary until 2007 unless there is a change in federal funding, if we want to re structure a contract or if a provider is terminated.
- Tim informed the members that the Magellan data system is making slow and steady progress and data collection from the providers is being entered on the Internet.

- Laurie Sutter, Prevention Manager at the Office of Mental Health, Substance Abuse and Addiction Services has conducted a Student Survey on Risk Assessment for students in public schools.
- Sherrie Geier explained the importance of the student survey as a useful tool to assess substance abuse, mental health and compulsive gambling prevention information concerning youth.
- Tim explained the summary Financial Report in the Committee notebooks. The report reflects the amount of funds spent in direct services and administration.

Question - John Atherton

Is the list in the notebook under Nebraska Gambling Certification and certified compulsive gambling counselors just renewing?

Answer - Tim Christensen

The list is the number of counselors currently certified. Some have renewed their certification.

- Tim said the Office of Mental Health, Substance Abuse and Addiction Services enters into agreements with counselors before they are certified. As long as the individual is an LMHP or licensed alcohol and certified drug counselor and have a certain amount of education, we can contract with them for providing gambling addiction services, provided they have clinical supervision from a certified counselor.
- Tim informed the members that five of the six **Problem Gambling Certification Advisory Board members** will be certified counselors.
- Tim said he is conservative when budgeting for contracts, being careful not to over extend the program.
- The way the program's allocations are made, the first allocation is not received until September. The fiscal year starts July 1st. So on July 1st there needs to be an operating balance of at least a quarter of the fiscal year's funds to pay bills until a deposit is received. Since these funds show up on the financial report every year it appears that there is money not used; however, these funds are encumbered to pay the first quarter expenses. These funds are often questioned by the Nebraska Legislature.

IV. APPROVE BYLAWS

- A copy of the draft version of the bylaws is included in the notebook handout (attached).
- The formal name of this group is State Advisory Committee on Problem Gambling and Addiction Services.
 - The five basic components in the bylaws for this committee are the following:
 1. To provide advice and assistance to the Behavioral Health Council
 2. To evaluate applications for the RFP process
 3. To promote the interest of consumers and their families
 4. To provide reports as requested by the Behavioral Health Council and the Division of Behavioral Health
 5. To engage in other activities as directed or authorized by the Behavioral Health Council.
- The executive committee was created to make decisions to act on behalf of the entire committee.
- Adhoc committees may be created from this committee. The members of an adhoc committee do not have to be members of this committee.
- Tim explained the process of bylaw amendments.
- Sherrie Geier mentioned several of her concerns with the bylaws as presented today:
 - Sherrie discussed terms of members, conflict of interest for members and public meeting announcements.
 - Sherrie feels the definition of responsibility and authority for the executive committee should be clear in the bylaws.
 - Sherrie also feels the number of votes needed to approve funding is an important item to add to the bylaws.

- Tim said the Office is required to provide an orientation for the committees, produce the meeting minutes, maintain records of the committees and supply secretarial support.

Tim will research the issue concerning the potential conflict of interest for Theo Hudson (member of Board of Directors of the Nebraska Council on Compulsive Gambling). He will also follow up on the concerns Sherrie Geier expressed and report to the committee at the next commission meeting.

V. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

A MOTION was made by Tom Nutt to nominate Sherrie Geier as chairperson of the State Advisory Committee on Problem Gambling and Addiction Services. A ROLE CALL VOTE was taken. The MOTION carried.

John Atherton volunteered to be vice chairperson and Lynda Lakin volunteered to be secretary of the State Advisory Committee on Problem Gambling and Addiction Services. A ROLE CALL VOTE was taken. All members agreed.

Ten members of the Behavioral Health Council are also members of this committee. Three members already appointed to the Behavioral Health Council by the Governor are Sherrie Geier, Tom Nutt and Kate Speck. The seven remaining members elected to also be Behavioral Health Council members are John Atherton, Wayne Choat, Janet French, Lisa Jones, Steven Jung, Lynda Lakin and Dick Stalker. A ROLE CALL VOTE was taken. All members agreed.

VI. NEXT MEETING

The next Committee meeting will be held on February 8, 2005 9:00 a. m. to 12:00 p. m. The meeting will be held at the Country Inn & Suites located at 5353 North 27th Street in Lincoln, Nebraska. Committee members are encouraged to attend.

- Further meeting dates are set for May 10, 2005, August 9, 2005 and November 8, 2005.

VII. ADJOURN

Tim asked if there was additional business for the Committee. There being none the meeting was ADJORNED by general consent at 12:00 p.m.

Prepared by Linda L. Jensen, Staff Assistant I, Office of Mental Health, Substance Abuse and Addiction Services on November 24, 2004.

Approved by _____
 Tim Christensen
 Gamblers Assistance Program Manager
 Office of Mental Health, Substance Abuse,
 and Addiction Services

Date _____